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A MESSAGE TO ALL CANCER SUFFERERS

Dr. W. W. Keen, one of the best known and successful surgeons of the country is offering a message of hope to cancer sufferers. He says in part: "During an active surgical life of almost half a century, I have seen many hundreds of cases of cancer and I am happy to assure my readers that it is curable, provided the advice of those who have been in constant contact with this terrible disease is sought and followed."

The deaths from cancer are continually increasing, and have reached a most alarming total. In the World War, from April, 1917, to July, 1919, 76,433 of our gallant soldiers lost their lives by wounds and disease. In the same length of time, about 180,000 of our population died from cancer—over 100,000 more than the total military deaths! Of our total annual deaths of persons over forty years of age, one person in every ten dies of cancer. Of all deaths among women over forty, one out of every eight is caused by cancer. Do not these figures startle you, my reader? Is it not all-important that you should recognize the red flag of "danger", when you discover the first recognizable sign of possible cancer—a "lump" anywhere, or an abnormal discharge of blood?

"What is the cause of cancer?" you ask; "and why aren't you busy finding it?" I answer that no one problem of disease is being attacked as is the cause of cancer. If we find the cause, we will be at the half-way house on the road to prevention or cure.

There are special laboratories of research on cancer alone in Boston, New York City, Buffalo, London, Paris, Heidelberg, and other cities, and also not a few personal investigators in other places, all laboring to discover the cause, and how to prevent cancer and thus avoid the dreadful alternative of a surgical operation.

The problem has been attacked from the surgical, the pathological, the microscopical, the chemical, the biological, and the experimental side. We have learned a great deal; for instance, that cancer is always a strictly local disease at the beginning, so that, if you remove this small lump early enough, cure is almost certain. If you wait, the disease spreads by the absorbent vessels and the blood vessels to the neighboring glands (under the jaw, in the armpit or the groin, or in internal glands) or to distant parts, and then the case is hopeless for cure. All we can do is palliate. Early operation before the disease has thus spread is the sine qua non for success.

The X-rays and radium are being very extensively experimented with, and most hopefully in certain forms of cancer. It is with this view that the fine women of America presented Madame Curie with one gram (15 grains) of radium, costing one hundred thousand dollars. I have personally known of some remarkable cures by the X-rays and radium. But they should be used only by experts, or they may do irreparable damage. Even if they do no damage, in case they do not cure, their use not seldom delays operation until it is too late.

We have also learned by these laboratories of research that this, that, and the other line of research is not the true road to the discovery of the cause. Thus, by exclusion, we are gradually limiting our researches to the methods which give promise of possible success.

I feel as certain of our ultimate success as I do of my own existence. I am expectant, hopeful, and impatient for that glorious day to come. It will most likely come like a thief in the night to some lonely, patient,

persistent worker. Then, indeed, after it has been tested and found true, may we chant a Te Deum—and turn our energies to the solution of the many other problems in medicine.

Above everything else not to do, I urge that none of the so-called "cancer cures" be used. I have seen the damage done by many of them, and the happy time when early operation might almost certainly have cured has gone by, and again "Too late" is the sad verdict.

The American Society for the Control of Cancer was formed in 1913. Dr. Charles A. Powers, a retired surgeon of Denver, whom I am proud to call an old friend, is the president. They are carrying on a vigorous campaign of enlightenment, to wake up the nation to the growing peril of cancer. They are a very live body. A large number of doctors are members and, what is most encouraging, an increasing number of public-spirited men and women are also members. The nominal dues are five dollars a year, but many give up to fifty dollars a year as patrons, and others, to aid the cause, give their hundreds and thousands. The society sends out circulars, pamphlets, etc., by the thousand, organizes lecture courses in many places, and spreads abroad the good news of the curability of cancer, provided that their advice is strictly followed. This year they propose to make a special effort during the week of October 30th to November 5th to arouse a nationwide interest and a nation-wide activity of control cancer, by persuading all who have or suspect they have the disease to secure immediate competent advice and treatment.

I earnestly urge that every reader of this paper will join this admirable and wholly altruistic society. It takes much effort and much money to wake up a whole nation; but that is exactly our intention. We doctors are heartily in accord with the objects of this society.

Readers of the Miner may obtain any desired information on this subject by writing to the American Society for the Control of Cancer, 25 West 45th Street, New York City.

It isn't always true that the right hand knows not what the left hand does. It frequently occurs that each knows that the other does nothing.

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Recipe
—4 cup butter,
1/2 cup sugar, 2
eggs, 1/2 cup
flour, 1 level tea-
spoon Calumet
Baking Powder,
3/4 cup chopped
nuts, 1 teaspoon
lemon juice.
Then mix in the
regular way.

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